



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006

No. 7

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at noon.

Senate

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the center of our joy, prepare our spirits, clarify our minds, and stir our hearts for Your movements among us. Help us to feel Your presence in our opportunities to touch hurting lives. May Your whispers prompt us to deliver captives and bring healing to the bruised.

Abide in the hearts and minds of our Senators. Guide them with Your counsel that they may not stumble in darkness. May their hands touch Your Hand and find the leading that illuminates the road to peace.

Bless our families and our homes. Protect our loved ones from the perils of these uncertain times. We commit ourselves today to the One who came to give us salvation. We pray in His Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NOMINATION OF SAMUEL A. ALITO, JR., TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of calendar No. 490, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Samuel A. Alito, Jr., of New Jersey, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today the Senate will continue to debate the nomination of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. Yesterday, the majority leader, Senator BILL FRIST, was forced to file a cloture motion to stop a filibuster from Senators on the other side of the aisle. That cloture vote will occur at 4:30 p.m. on Monday. It is our expectation that cloture will be invoked and that the Senate will then proceed to a vote, a final up-or-down vote, on the confirmation of Judge Alito on Tuesday at 11 a.m.

I have some remarks I wish to make on the Alito nomination, but before I do, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, it is very distressing and disappointing that we are now looking at a filibuster of the nomination of Samuel Alito to be a member of the U.S. Supreme Court. He has served as a Federal appellate judge—outside of Washington, DC, not involved in any of the political issues here—for 15 years and during that time has assembled an incredibly strong group of admirers who have testified on his behalf to a degree that exceeds almost anything I have had the pleasure to see as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee where we had hearings on this matter.

The American Bar Association interviewed 300 of his colleagues—lawyers who have litigated against him; lawyers who have worked with him; judges who have heard him, whom he practiced before; and his colleagues on the bench.

An African-American member of that ABA team—who represented the University of Michigan in defending their admissions policy that some called a quota policy—that individual said, quote: He was held in incredibly high regard. In fact, I am not aware of anyone who was interviewed that said anything bad about this nominee.

He was at the top of his class at Princeton, and the top of his class at Yale Law School where he served on the Law Review. He argued 12 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. There is not more than a handful of lawyers in

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S235